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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 FEAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

DRC-01 (ISO) W
---------- 043563
R 181330Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2758
INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9595

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, IN, SW, PFOR
SUBJ: INDO-SWEDISH RELATIONS IN WAKE OF INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

1. IN WHAT SWEDISH EMBASSY HERE CHARACTERIZES AS DELIBERATE INDIAN RESPONSE TO PALME STATEMENT OF MAY 20 ON INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, GOI CANCELLED VISIT TO SWEDEN OF CHIEFS OF ARMY AND AIR FORCE STAFF G.G. BEWOOR AND O.P. MEHRA PLANNED FOR EARLY JUNE. SWEDES, HOWEVER, DESPITE STRONG DISAPPROVAL OF INDIAN TEST ON PART OF SWEDISH PUBLIC AND WITHIN GOVERNMENT, WENT AHEAD ON JUNE 5 TO SIGN MAJOR AID AGREEMENT; AND DELEGATION AT PARIS AID INDIA CONSORTIUM MEETING JUNE 11-12 LIMITED ITS REACTION TO NUCLEAR TEST TO PERFUNCTORY STATEMENT OF SWEDISH DISAPPOINTMENT. ALSO, SKR 90 MILLION SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION TO UN FUND FOR MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED COUNTRIES IS LIKELY TO INCLUDE SKR 25 MILLION FOR INDIA.

2. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, MRS. GANDHI ON JUNE 13 WROTE PALME A CONFIDENTIAL

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THREE-PAGE LETTER. (ACCORDING TO SWEDISH EMBASSY, MRS. GANDHI

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AND PALME CORRESPOND ON FAIRLY REGULAR BASIS). INDIAN PRIME MINISTER BEGAN WITH APOLOGIES FOR HAVING LET FOUR MONTHS ELAPSE SINCE RECEIPT OF PALME'S LAST LETTER. SHE THEN PROCEEDED TO A VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. SHE ASSURED PALME AT LENGTH OF THE PEACEFUL CHARACTER AND INTENTIONS OF INDIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM. SHE SAID NON-PROLIFERATION STRICTURES OF NUCLEAR POWERS ARE DISCRIMINATORY AND REPRESENT AN EFFORT TO PREVENT LDC'S FROM DEVELOPING NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR ECONOMIC PURPOSES; AND SHE EXPRESSED HOPE INDIAN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT WOULD NOT CLOUD INDO-SWEDISH RELATIONS.

3. IN REPLY PALME DISPATCHED A LETTER THAT ARRIVED IN DELHI ABOUT JULY 12. LETTER WAS UNYIELDING REBUTTAL OF MRS. GANDHI'S ARGUMENT. IN WAHT SWEDISH EMBASSY CHARACTERIZED AS SURPRISINGLY STRONG TERMS, PALME INFORMED MRS. GANDHI THAT PEACEFUL AND NON-PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS ARE INDISTINGUISHABLE, AND THAT INDIA'S NEIGHBORS CAN HARDLY HAVE BEEN PLEASED BY EXPLOSION. PALME CONCLUDED WITH EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE THAT INDIA WOULD PLACE ALL ITS NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS IF INVITED TO DO SO.

4. SWEDISH EMBASSY HERE IS STRUCK THAT DESPITE STRENGTH AND TONE OF SWEDISH REACTION TO INDIAN NUCLEAR BLAST, GOI HAS NOT RESPONDED PUBLICLY TO SWEDISH CRITICISM. GOI HAS, MOREOVER, LARGELY SUCCEEDED IN CONCEALING FACT OF SWEDISH DISAPPROVAL FROM INDIAN PUBLIC.
SWEDES FIND IT IRONIC THAT GOI HAS REACTED SHARPLY TO CRITICISM FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WHILE AYING NOTHING ABOUT FAR STRONGER AND TOUGHLY WORDED CRITICISM FROM STOCKHOLM.
KREISBERG

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